

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00 AGR-05 TRSE-00

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R 261608Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5977

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3112

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, ECIN, EAGR, EEC, IT, AG, MO, TS

SUBJ: EC-MAGHREB AGREEMENTS

1. DURING FEBRUARY 25 CALL ON MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(MFA) NEW DIRECTOR OF EC EXTERNAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,
STEA-ANTONINI (VICE PENNAROLA), EMBOFF ASKED FOR MFA VIEWS
ON REPORTS OF UNHAPPINESS ON PART OF MOROCCO AND TUNISIA
OVER RECENTLY CONCLUDED AGREEMENTS WITH EC. STEA-ANTONINI
SAID THAT BOTH MOROCCO AND TUNISIA APPARENTLY BELIEVE
ALGERIA GOT BETTER DEAL FROM EC WITH RESPECT TO ACCESS TO
FRENCH MARKET FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND TREATMENT
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OF WINE IN EC MARKET; BOTH WOULD NOW LIKE EQUIVALENT

ACCESS/TREATMENT. HE HAS SEEN REPORTS INDICATING THE ALGERIANS INFORMED MOROCCO AND TUNISIA THAT THEY, TOO, COULD HAVE ACHIEVED SAME BENEFITS "IF THEIR NEGOTIATORS WEREN'T SO STUPID," WHICH GOADING HAS NOT BEEN HELPFUL FROM EC VIEWPOINT.

2. STEA-ANTONINI STATED THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO RPT NO CHANCE THAT EC WOULD RENEGOTIATE THE AGREEMENTS WITH MOROCCO AND TUNISIA IN ORDER TO ASSUAGE THEIR WOUNDED PRIDE. HE SAID THAT EC MIGHT PROMISE TO "RE-EXAMINE THE SITUATION" IN TWO OR THREE YEARS, BUT WOULD NOT GO BEYOND THIS.

3. THE EC COUNCIL, ACCORDING TO STEA-ANTONINI, WILL PROBABLY APPROVE THE EC-MAGHREB AGREEMENTS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL IN APRIL OR MAY, AFTER WHICH FORMAL SIGNATURE CAN TAKE PLACE. HE SAID THAT, WHILE EC WOULD PREFER TO SIGN ALL THREE AGREEMENTS AT THE SAME TIME, EC WILLING TO SIGN WITH ALGERIA ALONE IF MOROCCO AND TUNISIA HESITATE. STEA-ANTONINI BELIEVES MOROCCO AND TUNISIA WILL SIGN THE AGREEMENTS, IF NOT AT THE SAME TIME AS ALGERIA THEN SHORTLY THEREAFTER.VOLPE

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